Joshua Soon

Mr. Silva

History 11, pd. 2

9/ 29/11

Indentured Servants

During the 1700’s, the New World, meaning today’s United States had abundant land and resources. These lands were rich for growing crops such as cotton, corn and other crops. Most of the colonies in the New World had land owners. These land owners owned maybe forty to even over a hundred acres of land. The land was mostly used to grow crops and to open businesses. In order for the land owners to get workers, they would either hired people or purchase slaves. However, a great alternative was using indentured servants. These servants were commonly known as convicts who were convicted of a certain crime. This was a good alternative for these people because it benefitted them and the land owners. The indentured servants would sign a contract and be shipped to the New World. These people choose to become Indentured Servants because of the opportunities and advantages they could receive. The outcomes were good for the Land owners and Indentured Servants.

The Indentured Servants were people who were convicted of a crime. Some of them had serious crimes and some had minor crimes. The serious crimes could have been murder and some of the small crimes could have been stealing. For them, it was either jail or become and Indentured Servant. However, jail back then was different then it is today. Today’s jail is better than it was in the 1700. A negative about jail during the 1700, was that you could die and the living conditions were not the best. So the best option for these convicts was to become Indentured Servants and work for their land owners. An advantage for doing this was that they could escape the idea of going to jail and also have a better chance in life. The living conditions were better also.

The Indentured servants benefited from this also because they could become land owners themselves. This was possible because if they were good at their work then they would have been able to become land owners. For example, if the land owner tells them a certain task, and the Indentured Servant accomplishes it and goes the extra mile, then he will be able to become a land owner. However, this took a good servant and a long period of time. Another advantage of becoming an Indentured Servant was that they could be accepted in the New World rather than being an outcast in their country that they were convicted. This was beneficial to the land owners too because they would have workers and didn’t have to pay much for these Indentured Servants. Overall, during the 1700, there were many reasons why most convicts became Indentured Servants. One of the major ones was to escape the problems of jail. However, a good advantage was to become a land owner themselves. In the end, most of the people who became Indentured Servants did it for the advantages and benefits.